

Claims

1. Double metal cyanide (DMC) catalysts comprising:
  - 5 a) a double metal cyanide compound
  - and
  - b) an organic complexing ligand,
- 10 characterized in that they contain 2 to 80 wt.% of a polycarbonate, based on the amount of finished catalyst.
2. DMC catalysts according to Claim 1, characterized in that the double metal cyanide compound is zinc hexacyanocobaltate(III).
- 15 3. DMC catalysts according to Claim 1, characterized in that the organic complexing ligand is tert-butanol.
- 20 4. DMC catalysts according to Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that they contain 5 to 50 wt.% of polycarbonate.
5. DMC catalysts according to Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that they contain aliphatic polycarbonates having hydroxyl end groups and average molecular weights below 12,000, as determined by measurement of the OH number, which are obtainable by reacting polyfunctional aliphatic hydroxyl compounds with diaryl carbonate, dialkyl carbonate, dioxolanones, phosgene, bischlorocarbonic acid esters or urea.
- 25 6. DMC catalysts according to Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that they contain aliphatic polycarbonate-diols with average molecular weights of 400 to 6000,
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as determined by measurement of the OH number, which are obtainable by reacting non-vicinal diols with diaryl carbonate, dialkyl carbonate, dioxolanones, phosgene, bischlorocarbonic acid esters or urea.

5      7.      A process for the preparation of the DMC catalysts according to Claim 1, characterized in that metal salts in excess are reacted in aqueous solution with metal cyanide salts in the presence of the organic complexing ligand and the polycarbonate, and the catalyst obtained is isolated, washed and then dried.

10      8.      Use of the DMC catalyst according to Claim 1 for the preparation of polyetherpolyols by the polyaddition of alkylene oxides onto starter compounds containing active hydrogen atoms.